(b) whether they do not consider any examination test necessary to satisfy the qualifications they have enunciated in clause 3, and if so, why they have not mentioned such examinations therein ;

(c) what were the considerations that led them to fix the scales of pay enunciated in clause 5 ;

(d) whether Mr. F. L. Gilbert is in service under a contract and, if so, what the original contract is ; and

(e) under what class of paragraph 4 of Part I of the Madras Manual of Special Pay and Allowances Mr. F. L. Gilbert is allowed a compensatory allowance of Rs. 50 ?

A.—(a) The experience of the past has led Government to consider this staff necessary for the proper working of the press

(b) No.

(c) The Government consider that the pays mentioned are necessary in order to secure suitable officers.

(d) No.

(e) Class VI (conveyance allowance).

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member what is the experience that led the Government to consider that staff necessary, with reference to clause (a) of the question ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
" We found by practical experience that the staff in question was necessary."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" I am asking the hon. the Home Member what exactly the details of experience were that led them to employ five people ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
" From time to time we received reports that the superior staff was not able to cope with the work, and therefore they were increased."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member, with reference to the answer to clause (b), whether the Government consider at all that no examination or test is necessary to declare a man a practical printer ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—
" I do not think it is necessary."

Appointment of a non-official committee to investigate into the dismissals of employees in the Government Press.

* 468 Q.—Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what action the Government have taken on the resolution passed by this Council on 6th September 1928 to appoint a non-official committee to investigate into the large number of dismissals, etc., of the employees of the Government Press, Madras ;

(b) who was the predecessor of Mr. Gilbert as the Superintendent of Government Press, Madras, and how long he was the Superintendent, and what is the total number of dismissals, removals and suspensions during that whole period ;

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(*c*) from what date to what date Mr. Green was acting as Superintendent of Government Press, Madras, and what is the total number of dismissals, removals and suspensions during that period ; and

(*d*) what is the total number of dismissals, removals and suspensions during the period of Mr. Gilbert's superintendentship from January 1922 up to the end of March 1928 ?

A.—(*a*) The Government have not accepted the resolution and have taken no action upon it.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Mr. Fisher was the predecessor of Mr. Gilbert as Superintendent, Government Press. He was Superintendent, Government Press, from 20th October 1904 to 5th April 1919. Mr. Green acted as Superintendent, Government Press, from 2nd April 1922 to 1st February 1923 and from 9th April 1927 to 8th November 1927. The Government do not consider that the labour involved in collecting the figures asked for would be justified.

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know why the Government has not accepted the resolution ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The reasons for it were mentioned in my speech."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member, with reference to the answer to clauses (*b*) and (*d*), whether dismissals and punishments during the time of Mr. Fisher as also of Mr. Green were at any rate one-fourth the number of what they were during the time of Mr. Gilbert, though the term of Mr. Fisher was about fifteen years and the term of Mr. Gilbert was only six years ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government have no information."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know what will make the Government accept the resolution ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As I have said in my speech, no facts in favour of the resolution have been stated."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" What is the speech the hon. Member refers to that he made the other day ? "

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the hon. Member's speech was not made before the passing of the resolution ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Then, what made the Government not to accept the resolution ?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government again considered the resolution and for the reasons mentioned in my speech they did not accept it."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know, Sir, whether the hon. the Home Member is aware that the Sultan of Turkey went down the hill for not accepting a popular resolution, as it is stated ? " (Laughter).

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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the Government have considered in refusing to accept the resolution even at this stage that they are unable to give us accurate figures as to the dismissals and punishments comparatively in the times of the three Superintendents ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" As I said, the Government have no information."

Leave application of a reader in Government Press.

*469 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. N. A. Balasubramaniam, a reader in the Government Press, applied for six weeks' leave on 12th October 1927 on production of medical certificate from a L.M.P. ;

(b) whether he was directed to appear before the Surgeon, First District ;

(c) whether the Surgeon declared him fit for duty on 16th October 1927 ;

(d) whether he joined duty on 17th October 1927 and applied for leave ;

(e) whether the Superintendent treated his absence as leave but as leave without pay ; and whether the applicant had about two years' leave on average salary to his credit at the time ;

(f) whether the action of the Superintendent was against instructions contained in Government Memorandum No. 1002-2, Finance, dated 17th February 1926 ; and

(g) what action was taken against the Superintendent for disregarding a Government Order ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, on 22nd October 1927.

(c) No, the Surgeon reported on 16th November 1927 that he was fit for duty. He had delayed 24 days before appearing before the Surgeon.

(d) He joined duty on 17th November 1927.

(e) The Superintendent treated the period of his absence as absence without leave. Government are not aware of the amount of leave at his credit.

(f) No.

(g) The question does not arise.

11-30 a.m. Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" Sir, with reference to the answer to clause (e), in view of the fact that the question itself gives definite information, is it not the duty of the Government to verify the truth of this statement ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" The Government have no information."

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar :—" Will they not call for the information ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" We will do so if it is necessary."